

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 SIL-01 LAB-04
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PASS LABOR FOR ILAB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: JOINT DIET STRUGGLE COMMITTEE FAILS

REF: TOKYO 18178

SUMMARY. IT ORIGINALLY APPEARED THAT "JOINT DIET STRUGGLE COMMITTEE," IN WHICH JAPAN'S RIVAL LABOR FEDERATIONS, DOMEI AND SOHYO, COMBINED FORCES IN ATTEMPT TO MAKE LABOR'S WEIGHT FELT ON LABOR-RELATED LEGISLATION, WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL AND PERHAPS LEAD TO FURTHER SOHYO-DOMEI COOPERATION. AT LAST MINUTE, HOWEVER, DUE TO WHAT DOMEI CALLED SOHYO IRRESPONSIBILITY AND STUBBORNNESS, JOINT EFFORT FAILED TO SECURE PASSAGE OF BILLS LABOR WANTED. RESULT IS THAT DOMEI IS NOW IN NO MOOD TO JOIN WITH SOHYO IN FUTURE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN TWO-MONTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF DIET WHICH ENDED NOVEMBER 25, JAPAN'S FOUR LABOR FEDERATIONS ATTEMPTED TO AFFECT PASSAGE OF BILLS IMPORTANT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LABOR BY FORMING "JOINT DIET STRUGGLE COMMITTEE." NORMALLY ANTAGONISTIC RIVALS, DOMEI AND SOHYO, PLUS SHINSANBETSU AND CHURITSU ROREN SET UP COMMITTEE AT BEGINNING OF SESSION IN ORDER TO PROMOTE PASSAGE OF BILL RAISING WAGES OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES BY ANNUAL AVERAGE OF 9.2 PERCENT AND BILL INCREASING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND LENGTHENING TIME PERIOD FOR THEIR

RECEIPT. IN ADDITION, FOUR FEDERATIONS WANTED TO BLOCK PASSAGE OF BILL ALLOWING TRANSPORT MINISTRY TO INCREASE NATIONAL RAILWAY FARES AND BILL WHICH WOULD FOR FIRST TIME DEDUCT PREMIUMS FOR NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM FROM WORKERS' ANNUAL BONUSES AS WELL AS FROM SALARIES. JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY (JSP), AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY (DSP), WHICH ARE SUPPORTED BY SOHYO AND DOMEI RESPECTIVELY, BEGAN COORDINATING THEIR DIET STRATEGIES AND RECRUITED CLEAN GOVERNMENT PARTY (CGP) TO THEIR SIDE.

2. CAMPAIGN WENT SMOOTHLY UNTIL DIET SESSION'S FINAL DAY. WHEN DIET CLOSED AT MIDNIGHT NOVEMBER 25, RAILWAY AND HEALTH INSURANCE BILLS HAD INDEED BEEN SUCCESSFULLY BLOCKED AND WILL HAVE TO BE RE-INTRODUCED AND STARTED FROM SCRATCH IN NEXT SESSION. HOWEVER, DUE TO COMBINATION OF JSP STUBBORNNESS AND MISHANDLING, BOTH BILLS LABOR WANTED, UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES WAGE INCREASE, ALSO DID NOT PASS. AS TIME GREW SHORT, CGP AND DSP, CONCERNED THAT STONEWALL TACTICS WOULD ALSO HOLD BACK LABOR BILLS, PROPOSED WORKABLE COMPROMISES ON RAILWAY AND HEALTH INSURANCE BILLS TO LDP IN EXCHANGE FOR SPEEDY PASSAGE OF WAGE-HIKE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BILLS. JSP AND SOHYO, THINKING THEY COULD GET THOSE BILLS PASSED WITHOUT RESORTING TO COMPROMISE ON OTHERS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPPOSED THAT OFFER AND CONTINUED STONEWALLING. BEFORE TIME RAN OUT, UNEMPLOYMENT BILL WAS IN FACT PASSED BY UPPER HOUSE BUT NEEDED RE-APPROVAL BY LOWER HOUSE BECAUSE JSP HAD AMENDED IT SLIGHTLY. TIME RAN OUT BEFORE THAT COULD HAPPEN.

3. JSP-SOHYO ACTIONS PROVOKED STRONG, ANGRY REACTION BY DOMEI CHAIRMAN AMAIKE ON NOVEMBER 26, WHO BLAMED SOHYO STUBBORNNESS AND IRRESPONSIBILITY FOR JOINT COMMITTEE'S FAILURE AND SAID DOMEI WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN FURTHER JOINT EFFORTS WITH SOHYO. HIS CRITICISM WAS ECHOED LATER SAME DAY BY TEXTILE WORKERS' PRESIDENT USAMI AND BY CHURITSU ROREN CHAIRMAN TATEYAMA, WHO ALSO CONDEMNED SOHYO. BOTH CHURITSU'S MAJOR AFFILIATE, ELECTRICAL WORKERS UNION, AND TEXTILE WORKERS HAVE BEEN HIT BY RECESSION-INDUCED EMPLOYMENT CUTBACKS AND HAD WANTED PASSAGE OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS BILL AS FIRST PRIORITY. WE UNDERSTAND SOHYO AND JSP ARE ALSO FEELING HEAT FROM PUBLIC-SECTOR UNIONS WHOSE MEMBERSHIP HAD BEEN ANTICIPATING PAY-ENVELOPE INCREASES FROM WAGE BILL.

4. BEYOND IMMEDIATE RAMIFICATIONS OF LEGISLATION
DEFEATS IS LONGER-TERM SETBACK TO PROSPECTS THAT,
STARTING WITH JOINT DIET STRUGGLE COMMITTEE, SOHYO
AND DOMEI WOULD BE ABLE TO SET ASIDE DIFFERENCES
TO COMBINE FORCES IN FUTURE CAMPAIGNS. FROM WHAT
AMIKE SAID, THERE NOW SEEMS TO BE NO POSSIBILITY
OF DOMEI'S COOPERATING WITH SOHYO IN ANY MEANINGFUL
WAY IN NEXT YEAR'S SPRING WAGE NEGOTIATIONS.
MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 30-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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